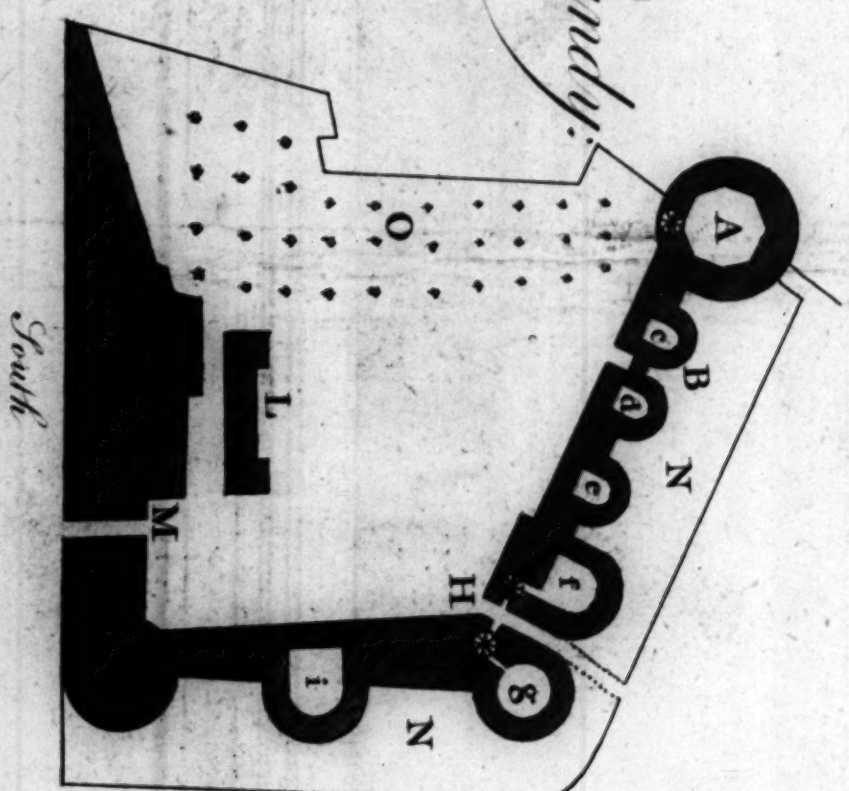


*Tour dans laquelle fut enfermée la Quatre d'Orléans  
avant son supplice. On la voit dans les fossés de Bourneuil.*

*Château du vieux Palais: at Rouen in Normandy.*

*built by Henry V. King of England 1419.*

- A. Tower called Malgobette.
- B. The ancient entrance.
- H. The present entrance.



- L. The site of the Ducal Palace.
- M. Communication with the City.
- N.N. A deep and wide fosse.
- O.O. A terrace planted with Trees.



10172. ee. 25.

*K. Turner (Ed.)*

DESCRIPTION  
OF AN  
ANCIENT CASTLE  
AT  
ROUEN IN NORMANDY,  
BUILT BY  
HENRY V. KING OF ENGLAND, &c. &c.

Read at the SOCIETY of ANTIQUARIES of LONDON, April 1, 1784.  
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MDCCLXXXV.

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*Description of an ancient Castle at Rouen in Normandy, called Le Château du Vieux Palais, built by Henry V. King of England. By Edmund Turnor, jun. Esq. F. A. S. Acad. Reg. Rouen Soc. In a Letter addressed to Edward King, Esq. President of the Society of Antiquaries.*

SIR,

HAVING, in a tour which I made in Normandy in the summer of 1783, had an opportunity of viewing the remains of the ancient castle at Rouen, called *Le Château du Vieux Palais*, and of obtaining a drawing of it as it now stands, together with a ground plan, I beg leave to present them to you, and at the same time take the liberty of adding a few remarks by way of illustration; submitting to your judgement whether they deserve the attention of the learned Society, over which you preside.

ON the 18th of January 1418, when the city of Rouen, after a siege of seven months, yielded to the victorious arms of Henry V. it was agreed, in the articles of capitulation, that the said king should be at liberty to choose a place or piece of ground, either within or without the city and near the walls, to build a palace, on condition that the said king would recompence according to his will and discretion any burgeses whose land

1788 Jan. 6. Summary of S. A. Co.



2      *Mr. TURNOR on the ancient Castle at Rouen.*

land he might fix upon for the same [a]. The first step taken towards carrying this plan into execution seems to have been the erecting strong towers to guard the intended palace, and likewise to serve the purpose of a citadel to command the town. The situation chosen for this magnificent building was a piece of ground in the south west corner within the city walls, and near to the river Seine. The drawing is taken from the north-east corner, and represents the north and east sides which face the city. I have been the more particular in endeavouring to describe the site of the *Vieux Palais*, as I learnt with surprise and concern that this building so ornamental to Rouen will probably be rased to the ground before many years are at an end. See pl. xix.

THE great tower, see plan [b] letter A, was begun in the year 1419 [c], and being now part of the Lieutenant Governor's apartment, it has undergone so many alterations, that nothing of its former ornaments remains except the ciellings which are of stone, and curiously wrought with eight projecting ribs in the Gothic taste to answer to the octagonal shape of the rooms, which are twenty-seven feet diameter and nineteen feet high; under these rooms, which are one above the other, is a vault or dungeon. The walls of this tower are sixteen feet seven inches thick, in which is carried up a circular staircase of seven feet diameter, lighted by windows three feet by two within; but diminishing gradually towards the outside of the wall.

[a] "Item, a été accordé que notre dit Seigneur Roy aura un lieu ou espace de terre qu'il choisira à sa volonté, ou dans la cité ou dehors, et près des murailles, pour y construire un palais, à condition toutefois que s'il se rencontre des héritages appartenant à quelque bourgeois, le dit Seigneur Roy les recompensera à sa volonté et discretion." *Farin, Hist. de la Ville de Rouen*, 4to. vol. I. p. 100.

[b] Pl. xix.

[c] *Stow's Annals*, A. D. 1419. *Farin, ibid.*



THIS tower from its great strength and solidity acquired the name of *La Tour de Malsyfrotte* probably from the French words *se froter mal*, signifying that it would be dangerous to meddle with it: from the first floor of this tower there seems always to have been a communication with the fortifications of the city.

As the towers at (c. d. e.) were used as magazines for gunpowder, I could not have access to examine whether there was any singularity in the formation of the ancient, and I suppose, original entrance at B, of which evident traces may be observed in the outer wall. The present entrance at H guarded by a draw-bridge, a port-cullis and two gates (one of which only now remains) was made in the year 1642, as the date cut in stone and the tradition of the place amply testify.

THE walls of the towers at (f. g. and i.) are twelve feet thick, the rooms are about twenty-one feet wide, of irregular forms, and the cieling resembles those in the tower of *Malsyfrotte*, which makes me conjecture that their original destination might possibly have been for the officers of state. The communication from one tower to another appears always to have been at the top of the walls between them.

THE tower at (k) was taken down in 1706, at which time the terrace at O. O. was made and planted with trees, which are now grown to be very ornamental. As these towers have been appropriated to various uses, windows have been made in them at different times, round the fosse at N. N. I could discover no apertures coeval with the building, except one row of loop-holes immediately above the set off, in the larger towers three in number, in the lesser only two. The area within the castle contains by estimation three acres. At L was the royal palace, of which there do not remain the smallest traces; but that it did exist, in part at least, appears evident from a deed of exchange



exchange of lands between Henry VI. and a convent of *Beguines*, dated February 4, 1443, wherein it is recited that part of the royal palace being erected according to the article of capitulation made on that behalf, it was found necessary, in order to compleat the same, to demolish an hotel belonging to the said nuns, in lieu of which they were to have two hotels in another part of the city [d].

I CANNOT conclude this paper without acknowledging my obligations to the polite and civil attention of Mr. *Descamps* of Rouen, author of the *Lives of the Flemish Painters*, for the enclosed drawing and plan which were taken under his direction, and for the permission he obtained for me to see the inside of some of the towers, a compliment not often paid to strangers.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,

Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

March 24, 1784.

EDMUND TURNOR, JUN.

[d] "Henry par la grace de Dieu Roy de France et d'Angleterre; scavoir faisons à tous presens et a venir, comme par le traité et composition de la ville et cité de Rouen, rendue à feu notre très cher sieur et Pere le Roy, à qui Dieu pardonne, eut été permis et accordé entre autres choses par les gens d'Eglise, nobles, bourgeois et autres, qu'icelui notre feu sieur et pere auroit et prendroit à son election et volonté une place en ladite ville auprès des murs d'icelle, pour y construire un palais royal, ainsi qu'il le verroit expedient &c. Et soit ainsi après que le dit palais a été en partie édifié au lieu où notre dit Seigneur et Pere l'avoit ordonné, joignant l'hôtel où demeurent maintenant les *Beguines*, ait été avisé et conclud par plusieurs de nos officiers que le dit hôtel des *Beguines* étoit et pouvoit être prejudiciable à la garde et sureté de notre palais, et que pour ce il convenoit demolir le dit hôtel pour le fait de la fortification du palais dessus dit: à ces causes enfin de récompenser les dites *Beguines*, qui nous ont franchement delaisé leur dit hôtel, pourvu que nous voulussions leur bailler par achat et comme une chose amortie un autre heritage consistant en deux hôtels proche l'un de l'autre scis en la paroisse de St. Vigor &c. Donné à Rouen le 4 Fevrier l'an 1443." *Farin*, vol. I. p. 103.



P. S. THE tower in which the maid of Orleans was confined [e] forms part of the fortifications of *Rouen*, and is situate at some distance N. E. of the *Château du vieux palais*. This tower is mentioned in a paper accompanying a drawing of the fountain erected to the memory of the maid of Orleans, communicated by *Mr. Turnor* to the Society of Antiquaries, who have caused it to be engraved for a larger publication.

[e] See the plate.

F I N I S.